

Docket No.: AHP-P01896US0

U.S. Serial No.: 09/418,902

**PROPOSED AMENDED CLAIM 1**  
**FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disposable absorbent article having a pair of longitudinally extending side edges and a pair of end edges extending between said side edges, and a longitudinal center line extending through said end edges and in between said side edges, said article comprising;

a topsheet layer;

a backsheet layer;

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet; and

a pair of end strips, each end strip being fixed, along a longitudinal direction, at a position intermediate said core and one of said end edges and extending in a generally lateral direction between said side edges, said end strip including at least three sections, each said section having an elasticity different from said other sections and a longitudinal position different from said other sections, including

a first section having generally elastic properties and laterally extending in generally parallel relation with said end edges,

a second section disposed longitudinally inward of said first section and extending in generally lateral parallel relation with said first section and with said end edges, said second section being characterized in that said first section is substantially more elastic than said second section, and

a third section positioned longitudinally inward of said second section, said third section having an inward portion spaced away from said topsheet and said absorbent core;

wherein said first section has a laterally extending outer margin and a laterally extending inner margin, said inner margin being positioned longitudinally inward of said outer margin; and

wherein said second section has a laterally extending first margin and a laterally extending second margin positioned inward of said first margin, said first and second margins of said second section being positioned longitudinally inward of said inner margin of said first section.